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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,815	12/04/2003	Ali U. Ahmed	016295.1507 (DC-05550)	7466

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EXAMINER

HYEON, HAE M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/727,815

Applicant(s)

AHMED ET AL.

Examiner

Hae M Hyeon

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 September 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/04/03</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Background in the present specification in view of DiMarco (6,039,581).

The background of the present specification states that the information handling system and D-style connector are known devices. Therefore, the examiner will not explain the structure of the information handling system and D-style connector, but only explain the missing element, which is a connector guide.

DiMarco discloses a connector guide comprising a flange member. Figures 8-9 show the connector guide 60 comprising a first alignment flange extending from a first side edge of a connector 34 and a second alignment flange 60 extending from a second side edge of the connector 34. The first and second flanges have a length greater than the width of the connector 34 and extending beyond the face of the connector. Figures 2-3 show the connector guide 20 comprising a longitudinal flange member 21 having first and second ends 24 and a connector tabs 26. However, the connector tabs 26 are not extending from each end 24. But placing the connector tabs 26 on each end 24 only deals with rearrangement of part, which does not affect or change the function of the connector guide 20. It has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70. Figures 4-7 show a

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connector guide comprising a connector guide body 70 and 50 having an opening allowing a connector 34 to extend therethrough. The connector guide body 70 and 50 further comprising a first end and a second end each having an attachment portion 72 and 54. DiMarco teaches that the connector guide aligns and guides connectors and protects connector pins.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the existing information handling system such that it would have a connector guide around a connector as taught by DiMarco to align and to guide mating connectors and to protect connector pins.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed on September 14, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant basically argues that because DiMarco does not disclose D-style connector and only teaches a rectangular shape connector, the connector of DiMarco suffers from the same problems a standard D-style connectors such as to facilitate the proper orientation and alignment of a mating connector during installation. Although DiMarco does not disclose D-style connector, DiMarco solves the same problem as the instant invention, facilitating the proper orientation and alignment between a connector with a mating connector. DiMarco discloses that the male and female connectors are simply very basic devices having a rectangular shape (see column 2, lines 47-49 and column 4, lines 1-5). DiMarco also teaches that the shape of the guide matches the shape of the female connector along one side and a portion of two additional sides

(see column 2, lines 41-43 and lines 54-59). Furthermore, DiMarco teaches, "The rectangular shape of the connector guide is just one option. The connector guide may be **circular, triangular or any other shape** that may be necessary for a specific application." Thus, the connector guide of DiMarco is not limited to the rectangular shape connector. Furthermore, D-style connector is well known and is widely used. Also, the shape of D-style connector, which is a trapezoid, provides incorrect orientation mating naturally even without a connector guide. However, it is obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use the connector guide of DiMarco to further provide alignment and guiding (proper orientation) to two mating connectors to protect connector pins. Therefore, the examiner believes that the rejection made in the office action filed on June 14, 2004 is appropriate.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hae M Hyeon whose telephone number is 571-272-2093. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. (8:30-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tulsidas C Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hae M Hyeon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

hnh

hnh

Hae Moon Hyeon